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ONE YEAR OF UPA-II BEARS IMPRINT OF PRO-RICH AND ANTI-PEOPLE POLICIES

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The United Progressive Alliance-II (UPA-II) government is at least very happy that they need not depend on the support of the Left for its very existence. This assured position has given them enough incentive to go back to their original economic reforms programme which they could not freely follow during the UPA-I regime. The first year of the UPA-II regime has witnessed therefore a major thrust of the government's neo-liberal policies which helped corporate houses to flourish while the poor became poorer. The union budget has gifted to the corporate houses tax concessions to the extent of Rs. 80,000 crore. But the government can not give necessary budget support for implementation of the RTE Act. It is estimated that Rs. 1.71 lakh crore is necessary for implementation of the RTE Act in next five years. The union government is harping mainly on the states in 55:45 ratio for implementation of the much publicized Right to Education, but majority of the states have already indicated their inability to provide the necessary fund. It appears that the UPA-II government is more interested to utilize the RTE Act as a publicly - value than to its actual implementation.

During the one year of the UPA-II, the government has followed many of the programmes left unfinished in the UPA-I regime. One such major programme is disinvestment of profitable PSUs like SAIL, Oil India, NTPC, NHPC etc. The government has set the target of raising Rs. 25000 crore during the current year. Ultimately this would lead to denationalisation in wide spread private sector areas and encouraging private sector. The UPA-II is thus strengthening the capitalist economy which is detrimental to the interest of the aam admi. To begin with, the government has vigorously started PPP model in many major sectors, including Railways. This would eventually destroy the PSUs.

The UPA-II has miserably failed to contain the price-rise, while it aims to weaken the Public Distribution System. In spite of repeated demands by the Left and other opposition, the government continues to refuse banning forward trading, particularly in food grains, only to safeguard the interests of some profit-hungry corporate houses. Hike in the fertilizer price and reduction of fertilizer subsidies as well, is a great blow to the poor farmers, thousands of whom have been forced to commit suicide under heavy debt burden. The UPA-II has been over-enthusiastic to further increase the petroleum-diesel prices and has caused further inflation. At the fag end of the first year of the UPA-II, a major concern would be the added inflationary pressure on account of hike in prices of non-food articles following the cabinet decision to increase prices of natural gas. With the government more than doubling the prices of natural gas to \$4.20 per million British thermal unit, gas based power as well as public transportation is expected to cost more and thereby add to overall inflation. In fact, higher gas prices will have cascading effect on uses industries. The cost of power, compressed natural gas (CNG), piped natural gas (PNG) and fertilizer for farmers is likely to go up substantially due to anti-public policies of the UPA-II.

One year of UPA-II has also disappointed millions of unemployed youths. Privatisation and commercialisation of education is also a bitter experience of the first year of UPA-II. Higher education and quality health care are now meant for the privileged elite society. Traditional Indian education system has also been threatened with the UPA-II paving the smooth passage of Foreign universities to Indian soil. UPA-II also could not prevent the scam on IPL, 2-G spectrum allocation on illegal mining. The vast difference in prices garnered for 3G spectrum and 2G spectrum clearly points out to the corrupt practices indulged in by the communication minister A. Raja. But the Prime Minister continues to guard him for the sake of their coalition partner. UPA-II government's failure to tackle Maoist menace is also a matter of great concern. The government could not take into confidence all the concerned states to formulate a comprehensive policy to fight Maoist violence. Even the Prime Minister's shocking silence in case of another coalition partner from West Bengal, who is very often publicly opposing government policies, is also a matter of further concern. UPA-II government's unholy and undesirable compromiser on various issues only to save coalition partnership have become harmful for the national interest.

Introduction of Nuclear liability bill highlights UPA-II's shameful surrender to US pressure, which began with the signing of Indo-US Nuclear deal. The bill provides for a maximum liability of Rs. 500 crore on the part of the operator in

case of an accident. The provision, the opposition members say, puts a cap on compensation and violates the rights of a citizen guaranteed under the constitution.

Shamefully, on the other hand, the UPA-II failed to enact an essentially needed Food Security Bill, while the agricultural productivity continues to be alarmingly low. The UPA-II also failed to pass the Women's Reservation Bill and at the same time it shows reluctance to implement the Ranganathan Commission's report on minority reservation. It also passed the National Green Tribunal Bill to help the big corporate houses for quick and favourable disposal of environment violation cases. In fine, the one year of UPA-II bears the imprint of a government pursuing anti-people and pro-business houses policy.

CASTE BASED CENSUS ESSENTIAL FOR PROPER RESERVATION POLICY.

Work for 2011 Census has already started. But it has sparked off countrywide debate and controversy relating to meeting of cast-based enumeration which has not yet been accepted by the Union Government. Home minister P. Chidambaram is still opposing the idea with his argument that the grassroot level workers engaged for census are merely enumerators doing the work of headcount, and they are not verifiers hence the more difficult task of caste-verification cannot be done now simultaneously. But the argument is not tenable and as suggested, the verification work can not be taken up a later stage increasing another fabulous expenditure for the purpose. In fact, the Union Cabinet is sharply divided on this point and many of them, like Union Law Minister Veerappa Moily has strongly defended the demand for caste-based census, saying that only with the latest data at hand would it be possible to ensure the advancement of the socially and educationally backward classes better.

Caste is a reality in our present society and we can not ignore it. Demanding caste-based census is not favouring casteism, it is rather an exercise to obtain data for ensuring justice and progress of the socially and economically backward classes through provisions of reservation and others. The last caste census was done in 1931 and still now we are formulating our reservation policy notionally on such 80 year old data. This is absolutely unscientific and hence we urge upon the government to immediately accept the demand for caste-based census and act accordingly. Presently, the centre and the states have embarked on a number of employment and educational programmes for the backward classes and these programmes can be effectively and justifiably implemented only if there is adequate data.

We must not forget that in 1951, when the Articles 15 of the constitution was amended to make a provision for reservation to Backward Classes, even then there was no data. While upholding the validity of the 93rd constitution amendment, the Supreme Court pointed out that there was no data on castes. If at some point of time the judiciary declares null and void the reservation to the OBCs on the ground that there is no data, it may result in serious problems.

We once more firmly assert that we are opposed to casteise divisive trends and inequalities prevailing in the society and are against all sorts of caste politics. But at the same time, we must make all efforts to ensure growth and development of backward classes. We must take various effective measures, including reservation, to achieve our goal. And for this purpose alone, we must have supporting data. It is hightime that we collect these data through the ongoing 2011 census, which should be one caste-based census.

Centre's Reforms in Education lead to Privatisation, Discrimination, Centralisation and Foreign entry in our education: RIGHT TO EDUCATION IS MORE FOR PUBLICITY THAN FOR ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION.

Dr. Barun Mukherji, M.P. and National Secretary AIFB

With the assumption of power for the second time, the UPA government is moving fast to introduce reforms in education leading to privatisation and commercialisation of education, discrimination between the rich and the poor 'aam admi' in providing quality education, centralisation of education vesting more and more power at the Centre and allowing entry of foreign, particularly American, university campuses in India. And the flagship programme of Right to Education, being launched from 1st April 2010, is more for publicising and popularity than genuine intention for its practical implementation.

While hailing the Act which recognises the right of all children within the age-group of 6 to 14 years to free and compulsory education, we can not rule out apprehensions about its successful implementation. On a

critical examination of different clauses of the Right of Children to free and compulsory Education Act, 2009 we will find a lot of absurd propositions which neither can be implemented nor can be justified. There are now about one crore of completely out-of-school children in the country, along with other equal or more number of nominally admitted and drop-out students between the age of 6 to 14 years. But there is no adequate infrastructure, along with the necessary number of trained teachers, to take care of their schooling and proper education as recommended in the Act. It is estimated that a sum of Rs. 1.71 lakh crore is necessary for next 5 years. But no such monetary provision has been made by the central government. The centre is depending more on the states in the ratio of 55 : 45 between the Centre and the States for bearing the cost of implementation of the RTE Act. But due to limited financial resources many of the states may not be able to share the financial burden as asked for by the Centre. Already the states like UP, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, West Bengal, Karnataka have informed the Centre that their state exchequer is unable to take on the expenditure. North-East states are also unable to share the centrally-dictated expenditure for the RTE. In such a case the implementation of the RTE becomes vulnerable.

The 13th Finance Commission has given Rs. 25000 crore to the States for providing free and compulsory primary education. An outlay of Rs. 15000 crore was approved for the year 2010-11 by the Central government. But if the RTE Act is to achieve its stated objectives of ensuring a fixed student-teacher ratio, neighborhood schools of specified quality for every child and training for teachers to a national norm, the funding appears grossly inadequate. It would be a matter of great shame for the Union government if it fails to arrange necessary funding for implementation of the much publicised RTE Act which it itself has introduced with big fanfare. It is apprehended that the UPA government would go for a third spell of education cess which in turn would hit hard the poor common people.

One basic requirement for successful implementation of the Act is a good number of trained teachers which unfortunately the country is seriously lacking. The RTE Act makes provision that a child above six years of age 'shall be admitted in a class appropriate to his or her age', irrespective of the fact whether the child has already completed or not the requisite elementary education necessary for admission to that particular class. In such a case the classroom becomes heterogeneous, in spite of being democratic in nature, where all children participate as equal partners and the task of teacher becomes too difficult to train them all up to an equal standard. The professed system of education thus faces a stiff challenge and the dearth of trained teachers becomes an acute problem. According to one rough estimate, there are 57 lakh teacher posts at the primary and upper primary levels. Currently, more than 5.23 lakh teacher posts are vacant. To bring the pupil-teacher ratio to 30:1 as prescribed by the RTE Act, 5.1 lakh additional teachers are required. Already, there are 5.1 lakh schools with a pupil : teacher ratio of more than 30:1. On top of that, 5.48 lakh untrained teachers at the primary and 2.25 lakh at upper primary level need to acquire necessary qualifications within the coming five years. Hence, in view of such huge dearth of necessary trained teachers, poor infrastructure and inadequate central funding, the prospect of successful implementation of the RTE Act becomes doubtful.

The RTE Act has some innovative ideas and provisions which may sound nice, but casts aspersions as to feasibility of their implementation. Under the Act, schools can no longer conduct any selection scrutiny in admitting students, while the school administrators and teachers who seek donations or beat students can be punished. All schools also have to undergo quality scrutiny in order to continue. Under the Act, no child can be failed till class VIII or denied admission because of the absence of any age proof. This is acceptable so far as the universalisation of education for children up to 14 years is aimed at. But the Act cannot provide adequate assurance for maintaining quality of education and preventing drop-outs, which exposes the major weakness and ineffectiveness of the Act.

An anxious question still haunts the society, whether the RTE will address rising drop-out rate. As per an estimate of the National University for Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), total enrolment in primary classes was 134.4 million in 2008-09, while in classes VI to VIII, it dipped to 53.4 million. RTE must answer this query.

The Act also directs private schools to admit 25 per cent students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds for free, for which they will be reimbursed by the government. This provision would encourage further privatisation, as well as wide spread misuse. While the government is running short of fund, more and more private schools will crop up as commercial venture to satisfy the Act's provision of ensuring schools in every neighbourhood within three years. Thus the privatisation of education will be further encouraged, while the first axe will fall on the quality of education so far the aam admi is concerned. In parallel to this Act - oriented low quality education, another flourishing trend will continue to take care of the children from affluent families who will not share the class rooms of the commoner's schools and will buy exclusive quality education at a very high price.

The HRD Minister of the 2nd UPA government thus moved in a high speed to present to the nation an education system which is not only discriminating in nature, but at the same time encouraging privatisation and commercialisation of education.

But it adds to the credit of the HRD Minister that, besides the RTE, he has introduced or conceived about 11 higher education bills which crudely expose the government's basic approach to education favouring

centralisation and foreign entry options. Two such important bills are : (i) 'Foreign Educational Institutions (Regulation of Entry and Operation) Bill 2010', and (ii) 'National Commission for Higher Education & Research' (NCHER) Bills 2010. With the cabinet approval, the HRD Minister Kapil Sibal is in hurry to pass these bills in Parliament.

The UPA government is very keen to pass the Foreign University Bill for allowing foreign universities to set up campuses in India. The HRD Minister had already opened elaborate dialogues with top US officials to ensure setting up of campuses by American universities in India. It is widely apprehended that this move would seriously damage India's own education system and a new culture and a new generation of Indian students would be created who will be mentally more closer to the US than to their own country. The US officials are already pressing for more authority and control in respect of curriculum, operations, teaching methods and fees. The challenges of quality education will not be addressed by this bill, nor the students from lower income families will have access to higher education.

The other proposed National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER) Bill primarily aims at centralisation of higher education and curbing states' authority in the field. It intends to bring all the educational regulatory bodies like UGC, ASCTE, NCTE, etc. under one centralised umbrella, which is contrary to the idea of decentralisation of education and independent growth of specialised fields. The proposed Commission will form a panel or register of experts from which Vice chancellors will be selected for different universities. Education circle has all doubts how far these imposed VCs will be effective, desirable. As per the provision of the Bill, the Commission will have seven wise men (with one Chairman) as members, who will decide what should be done in higher education sector in the country. The states will not be allowed to do anything unless green signal is given by these seven men. The proposed Bill suggests central regulation or control in all matters like setting up new educational institutions, revision or making new syllabus, etc. the Left Front government of West Bengal has expressed its reservation or rather opposition to all such clauses of centralisation of education. Instead of new all powerful regulatory body, the LF government prefers retaining the UGC in a reoriented form the proposed Bill intends to raise the standard of higher education and research and to grant more autonomy to the universities. But the majority of the education circle feel that in the name of autonomy, in reality more centralised control would be imposed on institutions of higher education. This is detrimental to the interest of higher education and research.

Plan for private funding will also hamper the interest of education. Privatisation and withdrawal of government from the education sector seem to be the defining feature of the Centre's policy in the educational sector. Its supporting evidence comes from another so called innovative idea of the HRD minister Kapil Sibal. Accordingly, for the first time the government intends to fund higher educational institutions with money raised from the market. Education will thus become a commodity which the rich and business houses will deal in.

The Human Resource Development ministry under Kapil Sibal is reported to be on way to finalise plans to issue bonds through a proposed National Education Finance Corporation (NEFC), which will lend to higher educational institutions. Under the plan, the bonds will be gift-wrapped with tax exemptions and other attractions to tempt buyers. The market will be one of three sources of funding for NEFC, which is modeled on other financial institutions like NABARD, which offers loans at low interest rates for social interest projects and has raised money through bonds and term deposits.

The NEFC is proposed to act as a lending agent to encourage governments and private sector groups to set up higher educational institutions ___ much like Nabard has done for rural entrepreneurs. The funds from the higher education cess are also likely to contribute significantly to the kitty that the NEFC will draw on to lend to institutions.

Some other Kapil Sibal's ideas include establishing elite residential schools to teach only science or the fine arts. Thus his planned education will be based on private funds and will aim to serve the elite section. And the government will have little residual fund and desire for education of the aam admi.

EIGHT PARTIES DELEGATION MET THE GOVERNOR OF JHARKHAND FOR HOLDING PANCHAYAT ELECTION

Eight parties delegation namely All India Forward Bloc, CPI, CPI(M), RSP, RJD, LJP, S.P. met the governor of Jharkhand on 12th May 2010 and submitted a memorandum for holding of Panchayat Election in Jharkhand.

Memorandum:

1. After 73rd amendment in 1992 part IX of the constitution made holding of Panchayat election mandatory without exception. We draw your particular attention to Article 243 read with Article 243M(1) and 243M(4)(B).
2. The three members bench of Supreme Court headed by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India in their common Integuments of 12th January 2010 ordered." The state Election Commission of the state of Jharkhand is directed to conduct elections for the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) as early as possible."
3. Jharkhand is the only state in the country where Panchayat Election has not been since its formation. Last Panchayat Election took place before 73rd amendment of the constitution in 1978 when present Jharkhand State was part of Bihar.

4. Panchayat elections has taken place in all 8 states where 5th schedule of the constitution applies.
5. Governor of Jharkhand issued notification on 26 September -- 21 October 2005. But the then Chief Minister of Jharkhand issued order cancelling that notification.
6. In absence of elected three tier Panchayat.

The rural population of Jharkhand is deprived of their constitutional rights of election. Their representatives in these political institutions; of participating in self governance through Gram Sabha which are part of Panchayat system; have become evictions of bureaucratic control suppressing their democratic rights; are deprived of the provision of Forest Right Act ; are deprived of thousand of crores of rupees of Central assistance for rural development ; have become victims of exploitation of corrupt officials - middle men - contractors nexus having political linkage with particular reference in NREGA, PDS, Land grabbing in rural development.

Under the circumstances we urges your urgent interventions in defense of constitution of the rights and welfare of the rural people of Jharkhand for holding Panchayat election in Jharkhand in the light of Supreme Court's Judgment of 12 January 2010.

Delegates consisting of Com. Janardan Pandey, Com. Umashankar Pandey, Com. Gyan Shankar Mazumdar, Com. Rajendra Singh Munda, Com. K.D. Singh, Com. K.D. Singh, Com. P.K. Ganguly, Com. Girinath Singh, Com. Annapurna Debi, Com. Sanjay Yadav, Com. Manohar Yadav, Com. Jahanara, Com. Sitaram Deutry.

CITIZENS CONVENTION CALLS FOR COUNTRY WIDE RENEWED MOVEMENT FOR "DESHPREM DIVAS"

In view of the UPA-II government's shameful refusal to accept the decade-long demand of the people to declare Netaji's birthday -- the 23rd January -- as the "Deshprem Divas", a protest Citizens Convention was held at the Speaker's Hall, Constitution Club in New Delhi on 5th May 2010. The speakers and audience of the packed up hall unanimously resolved to intensify the movement for mobilizing more public opinion in favour of "Deshprem Divas"

At the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Barun Mukherji, M.P., Central Secretariat member of All India Forward Bloc, moved the resolution to set the tune of the meeting. The resolution stated : "The urgency of such a demand is felt more in the context of the present decadent age, when it is absolutely needed to inculcate the spirit of patriotism among our young generation. Once we start observing Netaji's birthday as the Deshprem Divas in schools and colleges, our new generation will be inspired to love their own country which would, in turn, help national development." Janardhan Pandey, Central Secretariat member of the party, presented the Hindi-version of the resolution.

Com. Subrata Bose, Ex-MP and Central Secretariat Member presided over the meeting, which Com. G. Devarajan, Central Secretariat Member befittingly conducted the proceedings.

The meeting was addressed by leading political personalities like Com. Prakash Karat, General Secretary CPI(M), Com. A.B. Barndhan General Secretary, CPI, Com. Debabrata Biswas, General Secretary AIFB, Com. Abani Roy, MP, Secretary RSP, Shri Om Prakash Chautala, Leader of INLD and Former Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Brij Bhusan Tiwari, MP, leader of Samajwadi Party, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, MP, Former Prime Minister and leader of JDS and Shri Surendra Mohan, veteran socialist leader. All the leaders unequivocally condemned the attitude of the Congress led UPA government towards the great patriot Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and urged the people to intensify the struggle against it. They all extended their whole hearted help and support to the demand for Deshprem Divas. Com. Prakash Karat promised the support of the CPI(M) in favour of the demand, as and when necessary. Com. A.B. Barndhan apologized for their wrong assessment of Netaji in the past and said Netaji was the greatest patriotic leader of the country. Com. Debabrata Biswas bitterly criticized the Congress-led UPA government and said that they have not only failed to pay due respect to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, but have also tried to mislead the people on such a sensitive. While supporting the demand, H.D. Devegowda promised all help in all programmes on Netaji at Karnataka. Shri Om Prakash Chautala highlighted the need for existence. Mass movement on the issues. Com. Subrata Bose urged upon the people to unite under the banner of Subhas Chandra's patriotic ideology. Besides workers of different political parties, a large section of intellectuals, MPs-MLAs-Ministers, ex-INA personnel, students and devotees of Netaji attended the greeting to make it a grant success.

27th APRIL NATIONAL HARTAL: A WARNING TO UPA GOVERNMENT

The all India Hartal called by 13 left, democratic and secular parties on 27th April 2010 against price rise of essential commodities was a resounding success. The hartal was a follow up action of the left parties mass rally on 12th March and the jail bhara movement on 8th April.

The suffering people all over India spontaneously participated and involved in the Hartal. It was a warning of the

poor people that they will not remain silent if the government fails to contain the sky rocketing prices of all essential commodities. The states like Kerala, West Bengal and Tripura, where the left parties are influential the hartal became complete strike. Noisy scenes were staged in the both houses of the Parliament and the Speaker and the Deputy Chairman were forced to adjourn the houses several times. The cut motions moved by the left parties against some of the budget proposals were also came up in the Parliament on 27th April. It is first time in the history of independent India the provision of Article 113(2) of the constitution was invoked in the Parliament which gives the right to the members to move cut motion against the budget proposals. Though the cut motions were defeated but once again the infamous maneuverings of Congress (I) to blackmail the tainted leaders exposed. The leaders of Samajwadi Party, BSP and RJD should say to the people why they joined the nationwide hartal and not joined with the left in the issue of cut motions in the parliament on the same issue of price rise.

In Delhi, unprecedentedly this time the hartal was very successful. All industrial areas were closed and the workers have joined the hartal with greater enthusiasm. In many places the roads were blocked by the workers including women.

In Haryana, the hartal was partial. In many places protest rallies were organized and hundreds of people participate in it. The farmers of Haryana in large number involved in the hartal and registered their protest against the callous attitude of the government to check the back breaking price rise.

In Jammu & Kashmir, rallies and meetings were organized at many places in which the leaders of the left parties addressed. A huge public meeting was held at Srinagar near to Shere-e-kashmiri stadium. In Jammu also the people spontaneously joined the hartal and meetings were held at different district headquarters.

In Punjab, the hartal was success in many places. Hundreds of people including women participated in the mass rally held at Amritsar, Ropar and other industrial areas. The farmers and workers of Punjab actively participated in the Hartal and rallies.

In Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the hartal was partial. In many places rallies were held in which workers, farmers, youth and students participated.

In Rajasthan, mass rallies, public meetings were held at different places. Roads were blocked and industrial strike was also organized.

In Uttar Pradesh, the hartal was successful at many places. Trains were blocked at different places. The SP activists actively joined with the left parties in the hartal and organized number of rallies and meetings. The Industrial areas came into standstill and the government offices were partially closed. The people's involvement in the hartal was unprecedented.

In Bihar, the hartal was grand success. The people spontaneously participated and joined the hartal. Huge mass rallies were held at different places and the leaders of the left parties and the RJD addressed the gatherings. Many leaders were arrested before the hartal begins. Trains were stopped at different places and roads were blocked.

In Jharkhand, as expected the hartal was success. The workers from different field actively participated and involved themselves in the hartal. The Industrial strike was almost complete in the state. Trains were stopped at different places.

In Orissa, the hartal was partially success. Many places huge public meetings were held. The activists of the BJD also actively participated in the Hartal along with the left parties. The poor farmers, workers and government employees were also joined in the hartal. Huge mass rallies and public meetings were held at different district headquarters in which leaders of the left parties and BJD addressed.

In West Bengal the hartal was complete. It was just a 'band' like situation throughout the state. The people of West Bengal registered their anger and protest against the policies of the Central government, which caused the spiraling price rise of all essential commodities. The workers from both organized sector and unorganized sector actively participated in the hartal. The offices remain closed the whole day though it was a dawn to dusk hartal. Rallies and public meetings were held at many places.

In Assam, the hartal was success. Huge rallies and public meetings were held at different places.

In other North - Eastern states the hartal was partially successful. The workers affiliated to the left Trade unions were organized rallies and meetings at several places. But the hartal was very success in Tripura. Like West Bengal, Tripura also recorded complete hartal with massive participation.

In Andhra Pradesh the hartal was successful in many places. Protest rallies and public meetings were held at different places. In Hyderabad the hartal was partial as the nature of the city. In different district, the people spontaneously joined the hartal and raised voice against the anti-people policies of the central and state government. The activists and leaders of TDP actively joined the hartal along with left party leaders.

In Karnataka, the hartal was partially successful. But mass rallies and road blockades were organized at different places. The JD (S) activists and leaders actively involved in the hartal at many places along with the leaders of the left parties. In Bangalore, the leaders of the left parties and JD (S) addressed the huge gathering.

In Tamilnadu, the hartal was unprecedentedly success at many places. All the industrial areas were recorded massive involvement of the workers in the hartal. Huge mass rallies and public meetings were held at different district headquarters. The Mass rallies of Chennai, Madurai, Dindigul, Coimbatore, Tirupur and Thirunelveli recorded massive participation of the people from all walks of life. The AIADMK leaders and activists actively participated in the hartal.

In Puducherry, this time the hartal was a new experience to the people. All the left parties jointly organized the hartal and made it a grand success.

In Kerala, like West Bengal and Tripura the hartal was complete. The offices remain closed, no public vehicles were conducted services, trains were stopped at all district headquarters. Huge rallies and public meetings were held at all the district and taluk headquarters. The LDF of Kerala leave no stone unturned to make the hartal a grand success.

The resounding success of the hartal shows the growing anger of the people on the uncaring attitude of the government on this burning issue. The hartal of 27th April sends a warning signal to the government that more people's actions will follow if the government remains silent on the issue of price rise. The leaders who spoke at different meetings came down heavily on the government and urged to withdraw the price hike of petroleum and diesel immediately and to stop all attempts to scuttle the Public Distribution System. The leaders also demanded complete ban on all future trade and to stop the corporate entry in the agricultural sector.

The Central Committee of All India Forward Bloc congratulates and salutes the people for making complete, peaceful and successful hartal.

MPs MEET PRIME MINISTER IN SUPPORT MAHESWAR HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT AFFECTED PEOPLE.

Eight MPs representing CPI(M), CPI, Forward Bloc, RSP, SP, BSP, AGP submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh demanding rehabilitation and resettlement of the ousteers of the Maheswar Hydro-electric project in Madhya Pradesh. In their memorandum dated 3 May 2010, they welcomed the decision taken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986, suspending the work on the Maheswar Project till the rehabilitation and resettlement of the ousteers/affected persons are brought up to the pace of dam construction as per the terms of the clearance and the extent of submergence is known. This intervention to ensure prior rehabilitation of the ousteer/affected persons will go a long way to constructively address the issue of displacement in development projects.

As a follow-up, three MPs, viz. Brinda Karat, D. Raja and Dr. Barun Mukherji also met the Prime Minister on 7 May 2010 and pressed the demand.

Eventually, the Centre allowed partial resumption of Maheswar dam work on the assurance that no further submergence would occur until the entire relief and rehabilitation was completed.

AIFB KERALA PARTY SCHOOL SUCCESSFULLY HELD AT KOLLAM

The Kerala State Party School of All India Forward Bloc was held at Com. N. Sreekandan Nair Memorial Hall, Chinnakkada, Kollam on 7,8 and 9th May 2010.

The Party School was inaugurated by Com. N. Velappan Nair, Chairman of the Party on 7th May morning. While inaugurating the class he opined that the country demands re-reading of Netaji's political philosophy. When our country is reeling under tremendous threats from communal, corrupt and terrorist forces the very concept of national unity is at danger. The young people are wandering across the country with utter frustration. The farmers are committing suicide. The workers are loosing their jobs, atrocities against the women are at the peak. No political party is taking correct measures to save our motherland from all these social evils. Therefore, the patriotic ideals of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose are very much needed to protect our country to hold high our history of unity and integrity. After the inaugural speech 12 district secretaries out of total 14 districts greeted the Party school in few words. The leaders of the mass organizations also spoke. Com. K. R. Brahmanandan, Central Committee member of the party presided over the meeting. Com. Thankachan Varghese, Secretary of the State Committee made welcome speech and Com. Arun S.Sasi, Secretary of the party made vote of thanks.

After the inaugural session, the first class was taken place. Com. Debabrata Biswas, General Secretary of All India Forward Bloc took class on Relevance of Netaji in the current political situation of our country. In the afternoon, Com. Thankachan Varghese took the class on AIFB's relevance in the

Political sphere of Kerala.

A huge public meeting was held at Chinnakkada maidan in the evening. Com. V. Ram Mohan, General Secretary of AIFB Kerala Committee presided over the public meeting. Com. Thampi Punnathala, Kollam District Secretary made the welcome speech. Com. Ram Mohan, in his presidential speech explained about the activities of All India Forward Bloc in the state. He said that the party is always struggling for the cause of the people. The party has already formed all the 14 district units and 92 Assembly Constituency committees out of 140 Constituencies in the state. Com. Debabrata Biswas, General Secretary of the party inaugurated the public meeting. While inaugurating the public meeting, Com. Biswas came down heavily on the UPA-II government on its failure to implement the promises and its abject surrender to the US imperialism. He said that agriculture is the backbone of our country. But all the successive governments have neglected the farmers and reduced the public investment in agriculture. The obvious result of this negligence is the continuing suicidal saga of farmers. Com. G. Devarajan, National Secretary of the party also addressed the public meeting. He elaborately explained about the real reasons behind the spiraling price rise of essential commodities. He said that in one hand the government is promoting future trade of food, cereals and other essential commodities and on the other it dismantles the Public Distribution System. The government is propagating that all the oil companies are running under loss. But in fact not a single company shows loss in their balance sheets. They are interpreting 'under recoveries' as loss. Under recoveries is not real loss. It is a calculation that if we raise the domestic prices of petrol and diesel according to the international crude oil price when it is high, we could have made more profit.

Com. Velladurai Pandian, Secretary of AIFB Kerala Committee, Com. Fibby Augustus Mathew, General Secretary of AISB Kerala Committee, Com. Thottuva Surendran, Vice President of AIA Kisan Sabha, Com. Sherly Santhosh, President of AIA Mahila samity also addressed the gathering.

On 8th May, Com. V. Ram Mohan, the coordinator of the Party School explained about the proceedings of the day. Com. G. Devarajan took the first class on the second day. He spoke about the duties, responsibilities and rights of the party members and cadres. In the afternoon Prof.(Dr.) P.G. Wilson took the class on how to develop leadership qualities among the social workers. Com. Fibby took the class about computer usage. In the evening all the participants took part in the elocution competition on different subjects. Com. Thankachan Varghese coordinated the competition.

On 9th May Classes were taken about the mass organizations of the party and its functioning. Com. G. Devarajan made the concluding speech. Com. N. Velappan Nair distributed the certificates to the participants and presented best student trophy to Com. Abdul Khader Vazhakkala, District secretary of Ernakulam. Com. Humayun Kabir, Com. Adv. Sadiq, Com. Adv. Manoj Kumar, Com. Kalathil Vijayan, Com. Adv. P.A. Roy, Com. Jaison Manjali, Com. Baiju Menacherry, Com. K.V. Bhadrar, Com. Azad, Com. Shivanandan, Com. Nikesh, Com. Kazhakoottam Prabhakaran, Com. Shyam Mohan etc spoke at different classes. All the participants have gone back to their respective places with more enthusiasm, zest and determination. Thus the 4th Kerala State Party School of All India Forward Bloc was put a new feather in the organizational activities of the party in the state.

AIFB ANDHRA PRADESH CONFERENCE SUCCESSFULLY HELD AT BHASHEERBAGH

All India Forward Bloc Andhra Pradesh State level District Delegates Conference held at Bhasheerbagh, Press Club on 20th May, 2010. All India Forward Bloc General Secretary Comrade Debabrata Biswas attended as Chief Guest for the conference delegates. From 20 districts out of 23 districts of Andhra Pradesh delegates participated and the conference has been conducted very successfully under the leadership and preside over the conference Comrade Muralidhar Desh Pande. The Chief Guest Comrade Debabrata Biswas stated that Nethaji Subhas Chandra Bose has been brought to the people in grassroots level and the workers of the party should dedicate themselves to strengthen the views and implement the party activities time to time decided by the high command Nethaji in his life time worked for the equality, freedom, protect the democracy, discipline and love towards the people and the conference resolved that on the birth anniversary of Nethaji i.e., on 23rd January the Government should observed as 'Desh Prem Divas' demanded by the Chief Guest Biswasji prior to this conference in the morning session at 8:30 am. The state party office inaugurated at Barkatpura by the chief guest Biswasji at 10 am to that Sri. Chandra Babu Naidu discussed several issues including Nethaji birth anniversary should be 'Desh Prem Divas' and Biswasji also requested the Chandrababu Naidu jointly conducted a meeting with regard to Desh Prem Divas. Later at 11 am to 1 pm. Com. Biswas attend for intellectual meeting and explained the views and future programme of the party. As such the General Secretary of All India Forward Block participated programme in one day and successfully conducted all the meetings.

LEFT PARTIES WILL HOLD NATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST PRICE RISE

The Left parties, the CPI(M), CPI, RSP and AIFB met on 15th and issued the following statement:

FOOD SECURITY : Anti-Price Rise Movement - The Left parties took stock of the ongoing movement against price rise and related issues. It decided to hold a national convention on price rise, food security and connected issues in the beginning of July, from where the future course of action will be announced.

POSCO STRUGGLE: Stop Use of Force - The Left parties condemn the firing and the resort to force by the armed police against thousands of men and women who were resisting and blocking the predatory moves of Posco to take over large tracts of fertile land in Jagatsingpur-Paradeep area of Orissa.

Today more than 40 platoons of armed forces were mobilised. They moved down to the Posco site and confronted the thousands of men and women who have been sitting on dharna for the last several months. The armed police resorted to tear gas, lathi charge and fired with rubber bullets in order to disperse the protesters who have now retreated to the villages. This has caused injuries to more than a hundred, including 60 women. The CPI MP of Jagatsingpur was taken into custody the previous night. State CPI and CPI(M) leaders were present on the spot when the firing took place. Canards are being spread by the government that some of the protesters threw bombs. This is a total falsehood.

The people were also protesting against the Posco's move to have a captive port alongside the existing Paradeep port, which will have an adverse impact on the Paradeep port. Posco is also proposing to have captive iron ore mines instead of purchasing ore from the Orissa Mining Corporation. The proposal of Posco to draw water from the Mahanadi Barrage will seriously affect the irrigation system and also damage the ecological balance in the region. Ignoring all these concerns the Centre and the state governments have been backing Posco in their efforts.

The Left parties demand that the state government stop the use of force against the agitators.

Maoist Killings in West Bengal Condemned - The Left parties strongly condemn the killing of four CPI(M) workers, all of them agricultural labourers, in the West Midnapore district and one activist in Purulia district of West Bengal by the Maoists. It calls upon all democratic forces to condemn such violence.

The meeting was attended by Com. Prakash Karat (CPM), Com. A.B. Bardhan, Com. Sudhakar Reddy, Com. D. Raja (CPI), Com. Debabrata Biswas, Com. G. Devarajan (AIFB) and Com. Abani Roy (RSP).

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFINGS

MYANMAR'S NLD IS HEADING FOR DISSOLUTION

MYANMAR'S MAIN opposition party, National League for Democracy is heading for its dissolution as it did not comply with the electoral laws of the military regime. Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi led party had decided not to register with the election commission protesting the flawed laws by the State Peace and Development Council. The military junta is to de-register NLD any time as the deadline for registration with the first week of May ended.

Even then, an exile pressure group Burma Liberation Front, has raised voice in favour of allowing NLD to remain as a political party now. In a recent letter to Senior General Than Shwe, the present head of Burmese regime, the group demands that the government should allow the NLD to function as a legal political party even though they have decided to boycott the proposed general election to be held some time later this year.

Terming the chairman of State Peace and Development Council, as a military dictator, the group said, "You and your military regime in Myanmar have been trying your hardest to press ahead with your sham roadmap for a fake election in Myanmar. You said there would be an election in Myanmar, but a date has not been fixed yet. However your regime has already unlawfully passed unfair election laws to make sure real pro-democracy political parties and their leaders could not take part in the elections."

Alleging that the Burmese regime have 'put all pro-democracy politicians and activists in jail, because of the blatant lack of fairness and transparency in the electoral process', it added, 'all mainstream pro-democracy parties have declared to boycott your fake election 2010'.

The letter also claimed that Than Shwe has planned to 'form a puppet civilian government under the military's control' in Myanmar after the polls. Mentioning about some senior military officers and ministers' recent decision to shed uniforms and launch political parties with an aim to contest, 'rig the votes and declare themselves as election winners', the latter asserted, "The whole world understands that your election laws are unfair, your election is a fake and your post-election puppet government is illegitimate."

"In addition to your oppression on pro-democracy political parties ahead of the elections, your regime is also intimidating on ethnic national groups to turn their self-defence forces into Border-guard forces under the control of your army. Almost all ethnic groups have refused to accept your demands, and now you have deployed troops in ethnic nationality areas in preparation for an ethnic cleansing in those areas immediately after your fake elections," the letter pointed out.

It concluded with the demand for release of all political prisoners, including Aung San Suu Kyi, immediately so that they could take part in the election and also change electoral laws to ensure the process to be transparent,

free and inclusive. The group also asked the junta 'to stop your ethnic cleansing plans and to let ethnic national forces to exist peacefully' in Myanmar.

The organization also pointed out that 'banning of Myanmar's largest and most widely supported political party is yet more evidence that the elections due later this year are a total sham, and will not bring genuine democratic changes to Myanmar'.

NEPAL CRISIS DEEPENS

Nepal's Maoists have lifted a general strike that crippled commerce for a week in the Himalayan nation. Life on the streets began returning to normal Saturday, but the political crisis enveloping the country is far from over.

The shutters came up on street-front shops of Nepal's capital Saturday.

Nepal's business community estimates the forced shutdown cost the country's already weak economy about one quarter of a billion dollars.

Nepal is on the verge of a crisis as it has only 16 days left to promulgate a new constitution. The tenure of the Constituent Assembly also expires on the same deadline - May 28.

Since Maoists have refused to engage in tri-partite talks with Nepali Congress and CPN (UML) till the PM resigns, formal talks between Nepal's three major parties have remained in limbo.

POLITICAL CRISIS IN THAILAND

Thousands of supporters of deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, all in red shirts, demonstrating in Bangkok to demand the government step down and call fresh elections.

Supporters of Thaksin have been staging sporadic protests that have threatened to rekindle the political turmoil that has gripped the country since before the former leader was ousted in a 2006 military coup.

Sunday's protesters called for Parliament to reinstate the 1997 constitution that was abolished after the coup in addition to their demands that the government be dissolved.

"If the government is sincere, why not return to the old constitution, which was written by the people and for the people, and return the power to the public?" asked one of the protest leaders, Nattawut Sai-kua, adding that the protesters are collecting signatures to call for the removal of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva.

"Let's see who the majority vote for. I am sure it will not be this government," he said.

At least 2,000 people had flocked to a square in the historic heart of the capital by late afternoon with more expected to arrive later in the evening. About 1,000 policemen were deployed in the area, said Deputy Metropolitan Police Commissioner Worasak Nopsittiporn.

The protesters said they would disperse peacefully by midnight.

The popularly dubbed "people's constitution" - which was written with extensive public consultation and debate - was abolished by the coup makers in 2006 and replaced with a military-backed charter approved in a national referendum in 2007.

Critics say the 2007 constitution weakened political parties and shifted several responsibilities to the judiciary from the executive branch.

But anti-Thaksin activists say his supporters are only calling for the old charter - and the strong executive it creates - to rehabilitate the reputation of Thaksin who some accuse of installing a parliamentary dictatorship during his time in power.

Although Abhisit has said his government is willing to support amendments to the constitution, parliamentarians have not been able to reach agreement on the issue.

Few expect the protests to bring about immediate political changes, but the sporadic campaign has threatened to re-ignite tension between the pro- and anti-Thaksin factions.

Rival political groups have staged several rounds of sometimes violent protests. The turmoil began more than three years ago with rallies by those who oppose Thaksin - the "yellow shirts" - that paved the way for his ouster. But when his allies were voted back into power, the yellow shirts protested again - eventually occupying the seat of government and shutting down the capital's two airports.

When court rulings did in two governments made up of Thaksin allies, Abhisit came to power. But now the "red shirts" periodically hold demonstrations.

Thaksin was accused of corruption and abuse of power during his time in office, but he remains popular among the urban and rural poor. Last year, the billionaire politician was convicted in absentia of violating a conflict-of-interest law and sentenced to two years in prison.

Much of his fortune remains frozen in Thai banks, his Thai passport has been revoked, and he has been barred from several countries following diplomatic pressure from Thailand.

HUNG PARLIAMENT IN BRITAIN

The general election in the United Kingdom was held on Thursday 6 May 2010 to elect members to the House of Commons. The election took place in 649 constituencies across the United Kingdom under the first-past-the-post system. The Conservative Party under David Cameron won the largest number of votes and seats, but fell twenty short of the 326 seats needed to have an overall majority. It was the first time since 1974, and only the second time since the Second World War, that a British general election returned a hung

parliament.

For the first time in a British election, the three main party leaders engaged in a series of televised debates. The third largest party, the Liberal Democrats, achieved a breakthrough in opinion polls after the first debate in which their leader Nick Clegg was widely seen as the strongest performer. However, on polling day itself their share of the vote increased by only 1%, and they suffered a net loss of five seats. Still, this was the Liberal Democrats' largest popular vote since the party's creation in 1988, and they found themselves in a pivotal role in the formation of the new government.

On 11 May, as coalition talks between the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats seemed to be drawing to a successful conclusion, Gordon Brown announced his resignation as Prime Minister, marking the end of 13 years of Labour government. This made way for David Cameron to become Prime Minister just one hour after Queen Elizabeth II accepted Brown's resignation. Just after midnight on 12 May 2010, the Liberal Democrats emerged from a meeting of their Parliamentary party and Federal Executive to announce that the coalition deal had been "approved overwhelmingly", meaning that David Cameron would be leading a coalition government of Conservatives and Liberal Democrats.

This was the first time since 1979 that none of the three main party leaders had headed a previous general election campaign. 35% of voters supported a party other than Labour or the Conservatives-the highest such figure since the 1918 general election. The Green Party won its first seat in the Commons, and the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland its first seat at the ballot box.

HISTORICAL "MAY-DAY" CELEBRATED BY TUCC

Thousand of workers engaged by their capitalist masters were not only treated as slaves but treacherous behaviour extended towards them in today's most developed country of the world, i.e. united states of America so called super power of the Earth, was invaded by its creators in the city of Chicago on 1st May 1886 with the demand of 8-hours work,8-hours rest,and 8-hours of entertainment.Agitators fired and blood bathed workers shrink their undotted linens in pool of blood to create the red flag and also the history, which remember them today and will remember tomorrow as martyrs who sacrificed their life for our better tomorrow.

SHIV-SAGAR(ASSAM) : The most deprived tribal people after the independence in the state of Assam, previously working as "ELEPHANT-CATCHERS" and rural labourers from the District of Lakhimpur,Dhemaji,Tejpur, Suniti, Jorhat, Shivsagar gathered in hundreds in Nagrikhola high school ground to celebrate May-day. Com. S.P. Tiwari, General Secretary, TUCC, had hoisted leaping tiger red flag amid cheering slogans by thousand of workers. Present on the auspicious occasion as Chief Guest Dr. Mortaza Hossain, Minister-in-Charge of Agriculture Marketing, Relief and Disaster Management pay rich tribute to the martyrs and garlanded the martyr's plaque. Com.Raj Kumar Deora, Chairman AIFB-Assam state Committee, Com.Ratenshwar Gogoi, General Secretary-Assam State Committee, Com.Bapuram Saikia, Working President, Sadow Assom Hathiphandi Sonmilon, Com Pramod Phookon, President Kamroop labour union and others were present on the occasion. In a joint celebration program at Silchar, TUCC activist under the leadership of Com. Fidel Choudhary, had attended a procession covering various important areas and culminated at Netaji-Subhas park, where a public meeting was organised.

KOLKATA (WEST BENGAL) like preceding years as usual,a mammoth public meeting was organised at Saheed minar and it was addressed by many Left trade union leaders including Com. Saral Dev, National Vice-President (TUCC).Celebrations taken place in the Industrial belts of Barrackpore, Budgebudge, Champdani, Howrah, etc. processions, gate meetings were held in different places of West Bengal state.

RANCHI(JHARKHAND) : A big public meeting was organised by Nagrik Mazdoor Samiti at Jaspal Singh Stadium, Ranchi, which was attended by workers of Mining,Transport, Construction etc. Speaking on the occasion as Chief Guest Com. Debabrata Biswas, General Secretary, AIFB lambasted the Anti-worker policies of UPA-II government, which through continuing their divestment policy, decided to sold out public sector created through hard-earned public-money generated by revenue collection.He appealed to unite all sectors of working class under single umbrella, to launch relentless struggle against the policies of the government. According to news received, celebrations were also held at Dhanbad, Bokaro,Giridih and Hazaribag.

SETTOUR (TAMILNADU) : Thousand of workers from Textile, Transport, Construction, Loadman etc. assembled at Settour, a small town of Virudhunagar district on 1st May 2010 to celebrate May Day function with bursting crackers, playing drums. A bunch of young dancing leaders and the loud chanting slogans, responded by people made the procession very colourful and this covered majority of streets of the town. TUCC flag was hoisted by Com. S.P.Tiwari, General Secretary TUCC, an office was inaugurated by Com. G.R. Shivshankar, President TUCC. A big public meeting was also held on the occasion, Com. Tiwari speaking on the occasion as Chief-Guest of the function narrated the importance of May Day and its spirit to unite workers in organised and unorganised sectors, he also predicted that TUCC will take lead in establishing the society, advocated by our real national heroes Netaji Subhash chandra bose and Muthuramlingam thevar. He asked his leaders to prepare the ground for launching continuous demonstration against the state and national Government wherever labour laws are violated rampantly. Com. G.R. Shivshankar appealed to unite all likeminded working class in the country for join movements.

BIHAR : A report received-elaborate about the programs organised in the cities of Patna, Nalanda, Navada in Bihar, Kannauj and Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh, Bhind, Katni, Satna, Devas and Nagda of Madhya Pradesh.

KARNATAKA : Hundred of Tucc activists of Karnataka state gathered at Bangalore to participate in join procession of Left central trade union organisations of the state,women from Anganbadi,Workers from Hotel,Transport, Construction etc. participated in the program.TUCC leaders and workers had joined in the joint program at Delhi also.

AISB STAGED DEMONSTRATION BEFORE PARLIAMENT. HRD MINISTER URGED TO CONVENE MEETING WITH STUDENTS ORGANISATION

The All India Students Bloc (AISB), the student wing of All India Forward Bloc staged a dharna today before the Parliament against the privatisation, commercialisation and all orts of black marketisation of education and urged the HRD Minister to convene a meeeting with students' organisations to discuss the outstanding issues related to student community before next academic session starts.

Com. (Dr.) Barun Mukherji, M.P., Secretary of AIFB addressed the gathering. He promised to the students that he will take up the issues raised by AISB in the coming session of the parliament.

Com. Amresh Kumar, General Secretary of AISB, Com. Sudip Banerjee, Secretary AISB, Com. led the demonstration and address the demonstration.

The leaders later submitted the following memorandum to the HRD Minister Shri Kapil Sibal.

To, **Date: 20th May, 2010**

Shri Kapil Sibal,
Hon'ble Minister of HRD,
Government of India,
New Delhi

Dear Sir,

Today hundreds of activists of All India Students Bloc, the student followers of great patriot Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose staged a demonstration and dharna in front of the parliament on following demand of the student and academic community.

1. Stop all sorts of privatisation, commercialisation and black marketisation of education.
2. Take complete economic liability for implementing Right to Education by Union Government.
3. Discuss with state government before deciding any policy matter related to education as it is a subject belongs to concurrent list of the constitution.
4. Regulate strictly all the private and deemed university.
5. No FDI in education, withdraw Foreign University Bill immediately.
6. Set up Education Bank to provide interest free loan to the students for higher education.
7. Set up at least one Central University in all the states. Set up Central University immediately in Bihar and Rajasthan.
8. Resolve the anomalies prevailing in the professional education.
9. Hike the stipend for Dental Medical Students.
10. Enquire the ongoing malpractises in the veterinary university-Agriculture University of Rajasthan immediately.
11. Spend all the education cess fund for Education purpose to enhance academic facilities.
12. Include life history and contribution of Netaji in the syllabus right from school to university.
13. Declare 23rd January, the birth day of Netaji as "Desh Prem Divas" to inculcate patriotism among the students and younger generation.
14. Set up course - guidance centre at all taluk and district level for higher education.
15. Stop all forms of capitation fee and donations.

We urge upon you to look into these genuine demands of the academic and student community. We, the followers of Netaji always fought for democratisation of education and academic right.

Therefore, we earnestly request you to convene a meeting of the student's organisation to discuss all outstanding issues confronting the student community of our country.

Thanking you.

Yours obediently
(Amresh Kumar) General Secretary

ALL INDIA AGRAGAMI KISAN SABHA (AIAKS) CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEET HOLD HIGH THE SLOGANS "SAVE FARMER - SAVE COUNTRY AND "RIGHT TO JAL-JANGAL-JAMEEN

The Central Committee meeting of All India Agragami Kisan Sabha (AIAKS) was held on 2-5-2010 at Patna, Bihar in presence of Com. Debabrata Biswas. Com. (Dr.) Harish Gupta, Chairman AIAKS, presided over the meeting.

After threadbare discussion, the committee decided that as per the earlier proposal the target of membership enrolment will be completed by 30 June, 2010.

All the state committees are requested to print membership form in their respective local language and send the report to Central Committee.

The State committee of All India Agragami Kisan Sabha (AIAKS) are requested to call a meeting in the month of June and invite all the state secretariat member of All India Forward Bloc. The proposed meeting will discuss on membership campaign, lower level to upper state level conference and mass action programme.

The National Conference of AIAKS will be held in Bihta (Bihar) at working centre of Swami Sahajanand Saraswati on 11, 12 and 13 December 2010. A Kisan Convention will be organised to form a reception committee on 12 June 2010 at Bihta (Bihar).

In the light of National Conference, a strong kisan organisation and movement is very much essential. To fulfill this purpose Bihar State Committee and Central Committee jointly prepare the following team with specific responsibility for membership and organisation.

Hold high the slogans "**Save Farmer - Save Country (Kisan Bachao - Desh Bachao)**" and "**Right to Jal-Jangal-Jameen (Water-Forest-Land)**" the AIAKS will organise mass movement in the month of June, July and August along with Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, districts conferences with following demands:

- (1) Stop MNC's entry in agriculture, cottage industry and SSI units.
- (2) Remunerative prices for agriculture produce.
- (3) "Government should provide free seed, urea, power, Fertiliser capital etc., the farmers will take the responsibility to feed 110 crores people". Government should formulate comprehensive programme.
- (4) Institutional credit to the peasantry at 4% simple interest.
- (5) Scrap the future trading in agricultural produces.
- (6) Central Legislation for agriculture workers.
- (7) We need universal PDS.
- (8) Project should be taken in consultation with people/gram sabha.
- (9) We want rehabilitation act and rehabilitation for the displaced person.
- (10) Employment for all in MNREGA for 200 days without any discrimination. Stop the corruption in MNREGA.

On the issue of "Complete rehabilitation for the displaced person", a national convention will held on 9th August 2010 at Chandil (Jharkhand).